

**STILLWATER COUNTY
COMMISSIONER MINUTES**

<p>Notice: These minutes reflect the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners. The official minutes are on file with the Clerk and Recorder MCA 7-4-2611(2)(b).</p>
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**REGULAR MEETING
June 29, 2021**

PRESENT Commissioner Mark Crago, Chair, Commissioners Tyrel Hamilton and Steve Riveland, members; Shannon Fisher Admin Assistant.

Others Present: Kevin Ray, Road & Bridge; Joe Morse, Finance/HR; Chip Kem, SCSO; Jerry Friend, Treasurer; Maureen Wiltshire, DES; Rich Cowger, CFR; Steph Ray, Planning; Jen Hoines, HR; Marlo Pronovost, Stillwater County News; Citizens: Maureen Davey

PLEDGE Commissioner Crago opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES June 15, 2021. Commissioner Crago stated that the June 24, 2021 Special Agenda minutes were not ready for approval. Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the June 15, 2021 minutes as presented. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.

CLAIMS None presented

ANNOUNCEMENTS Maureen Wiltshire announced that the County will be moving into Stage II Fire Restrictions if the Commissioners approve the resolution. Stage II Fire Restrictions does not all campfires, smoking, unless in an approved area. There will be exemption forms for persons requiring an exemption and the forms are available in the DES office. Maureen Davey asked if farmers have to come in and get an exemption. Maureen responded that they will have to if they are not part of the Stage II exemptions. Commissioner Crago noted that the traveling agenda meeting for July is in Columbus on the 6th at the fairgrounds pavilion at 6:30 p.m. County offices will be closed on July 5th in observation of the 4th of July holiday.

CONSENT AGENDA **Airport Board**
A) Recommendation of a board position – Hardin Graham

FILE ITEMS **Treasurer**
A) Report for the Month of May in the amount of \$61,048,284.53.

Commission
A) 2021 PILT payment in the amount of \$507,393.00

Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to consent to the consent agenda and file the file items. Commissioner Hamilton **SECONDED**. Discussion – Jerry Friend explained that in response to requests from the public, the end of the month cash report is now available on the Treasurers website. Motion passed unanimously

REGULAR BUSINESS **Human Resources**
A) Clearinghouse – Required by FMCSA for CDL, compliant with FMCSA & DOT. Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the Clearinghouse – Required by FMCSA for CDL, compliant with FMCSA & DOT. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. Discussion – Jen Hoines explained that under the federal motor carrier act and the DOT requires any

individual with a CDL is required to participate in a clearinghouse to provide drug testing. This will bring the county into compliance. Motion passed unanimously.

B) Choice screening – Required in order to meet MFCSA/DOT compliance. Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to approve Choice screening – Required in order to meet MFCSA/DOT compliance. Commissioner Hamilton **SECONDED**. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commission

A) Approve the Road & Bridge programming plan dated May 12, 2021 & begin moving Facilities Department to new location. Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the Road & Bridge programming plan dated May 12, 2021 & begin moving Facilities Department to new location. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

B) Resolution 2021-15 for the temporary closure of Meyers Creek Road. Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to approve Resolution 2021-15 temporary closure of Meyers Creek Road. Commissioner Hamilton **SECONDED**. Discussion – Jerry Friend stated that there were issues with this road when he was a Commissioner and asked how long the temporary closure would be as this does provide public access to public land. There has always been a battle having to try and keep this road open and remain in compliance with statutes of not being able to abandon or close a county road that provides public access to public land. Commissioner Crago replied that this road is temporarily closed due to safety concerns with the road. The road is unpassable and unsafe for the public. The road will be closed until a plan to repair the road is put in place and repairs are made. Hopefully by this fall, repairs will be underway to make the road passable and safe. Motion passed unanimously.

C) Amendment No. 1 to professional services contract for Task Order #5 – Ingersoll Creek Bridge design & construction administration services. Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to approve Amendment No. 1 to professional services contract for Task Order #5 – Ingersoll Creek Bridge design & construction administration services. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

D) Area II Agency on Aging certification of match in the amount of \$13,312.00. Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to approve Area II on Aging certification of match in the amount of \$13,312.00. Commissioner Hamilton **SECONDED**. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

D) Fire Restrictions. Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** approve Resolution 2021-16 implementing Stage II Fire Restrictions. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. Discussion – Maureen Davey asked if this has changed from previous years. Jerry Friend asked if this a ban on fireworks. Commissioner Crago replied that the discharge or use of fireworks is prohibited. The sale of fireworks is allowable but the use of fireworks is prohibited. This resolution does declare all of Stillwater County a high fire hazard area which does help with the control of fireworks activities. Commissioner Hamilton noted that under a stage II exemption section 9 states that agricultural harvesting and off road activities associated with agricultural operations, maintaining livestock watering facilities and other operations are already exempted and has not changed from past Stage II restrictions. Commissioner Riveland added that the biggest change was the declaration of a high fire hazard area and the restrictions on the use of fireworks. Commissioner Hamilton further explained that once Stillwater County was declared a high fire hazard area, it broadens the scope of what activities can be limited. Marlo Pronovost asked if there were no fireworks. Commissioner Hamilton confirmed that there will be no discharge of fireworks. Commissioner Riveland also noted that there will be no campfires as well. Rich Cowger asked if there was language in the restrictions addressing exploding targets. Commissioner Hamilton replied that is addressed under explosives and that exploding targets would be under that. Rich Cowger stated that the Commission may want to add that language into the restrictions because some people only consider them as targets and there have been fires in the area caused by exploding targets. Motion passed unanimously.

Economic Development

A) Notice to enter into contract negotiations with AE Design for FCIP projects. Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to approve notice to enter into contract negotiations with AE Design for FCIP projects. Commissioner Hamilton **SECONDED**. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Weed District

A) Montana Rail Link contract addendum for additional funds to existing contract. Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the Montana Rail Link contract addendum for additional funds to existing contract. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. Discussion – Commissioner Hamilton stated that this brings the total to \$7000.00. Commissioner Crago stated that Dana Weatherford has been working with Montana Rail Link to get their weeds covered and these additional funds will help with that. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer

A) Order 2021-03 to Treasurer to cancel delinquent property taxes. Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to approve Order 2021-03 to Treasurer to cancel delinquent property taxes. Commissioner Hamilton **SECONDED**. Discussion - Jerry Friend stated that this is for three trailer houses that do not exist any longer. This is the process the county has to go through per statute to write off the taxes for non-existent mobile homes. Motion passed unanimously.

B) Order 2021-04 to Treasurer to cancel delinquent Solid Waste assessment fee taxes. Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to approve Order 2021-04 to Treasurer to cancel delinquent Solid Waste assessment fee taxes. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. Discussion - Maureen Davey asked if there was a recommendation from the Solid Waste Board for this. Commissioner Crago stated that this was for two uninhabitable homes in Park City that were approved at the last Solid Waste Board Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON COUNTY BUSINESS – Maureen Davey stated that she received her survey in the mail and that they received one survey for two voters. Some of the printing is very small and hard to read. One of the questions was is the current fairgrounds site a good location for new county offices and court law enforcement facilities. That is two questions in one, what do you do if you support one and not the other. It also asks if you would support a general obligation bond for the law and justice center. Will there be something on the website someplace as to what the laws are that cover the obligation bond. This is difficult for the public to find information regarding this. Is there only one survey per resident? Per registered voter? There is not date to return the surveys by. It also does not state anywhere to only fill out one survey. Could this be stacked either way? Do you think that will happen? I think some people will. It is disappointing that it does not state to only fill out one survey per person. Commissioner Riveland stated that this was discussed and the Commission felt that if someone was going to do it, they would do it regardless if the words were on there or not. Maureen stated that it would have been simple to have put the words on there. Leroy Anderson stated that Yellowstone County barred all fireworks in the County. Columbus doesn't have fireworks. There is nothing in Absarokee. Why can't the Commissioners bar fireworks in Absarokee. Commissioner Hamilton stated that the Commission just passed a resolution prohibiting the discharge of fireworks in all of Stillwater County. Leroy asked when it starts. Commissioner Hamilton replied that it starts at midnight tonight. Leroy thanked the Commissioners.

With no further comments heard the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 a.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

June 29, 2021

9:30 a.m.

PRESENT

Commissioner Mark Crago, Chair, Commissioners Tyrel Hamilton and Steve Riveland, members; Shannon Fisher Admin Assistant.

Others Present: Joe Morse, Finance/HR; Steph Ray, Planning; Citizens: Maureen Davey

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioner Crago opened the Public Hearing.

REASON FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioner Crago made introductions and announced the Public Hearing is being held to accept public comment on the county's preliminary budget. Joe Morse stated that the preliminary budget hearings began in April/May. The meetings were held and revisions were made and the preliminary budget is ready for public inspection.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Maureen Davey asked if this is just the preliminary budget for the county or does this include special districts. Joe Morse replied that what is being approved is the actual expenditure line item budgets for all the county funds to include special revenue. The special districts have not turned in their budgets yet. Maureen Davey stated that technically all budgets are supposed to be submitted by July 1. Maureen further stated that the budget was approved before the county received the taxable valuations. Maureen went on to state that she does not know of any other county that approve their budget before they get their taxable valuation because budgets are supposed to be in by what time after the taxable valuations are received? Joe Morse replied that would be October 1 or thirty days after receipt of valuations. Maureen stated that last year the county had the situation that the taxable value went up quite a bit but the full amount was not levied and there was an amendment to the budget and all that went into capital outlay funds. Joe responded that yes, for the most part is correct. Maureen stated that she will do her homework and compare this budget to last years county funds. Maureen stated that she did not know what the county employees increases would be or if they increased or not. Maureen hopes that the county can look at the budget again if the taxable valuation goes up or she hopes that the county does not levy all the taxes and gives the taxpayers a break.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioner Crago closed this portion public hearing at 9:35 a.m. Written comments will be accepted until July 26, 2021 until 4:30 p.m. The final budget will be on the July 27, 2021 regular agenda meeting.

APPROVED BY: /s/ Mark Crago, Commissioner Chairman
ATTEST: Heidi L. Stadel, Clerk and Recorder